

County Snapshot

County Snapshot

Situated on the east side of San Francisco Bay, **Alameda County** is part of the state's busiest urban area. It is established as a major port for the Pacific Rim trade and its diverse economic base includes manufacturing, services, wholesale and retail businesses.

Between 1990 and 1999, the county population increased by 12.8 percent or 163,800 persons. This figure is projected to more than double by 2020 reaching a projected population of 1,793,100.

The 1999 annual average statistics show the civilian labor force for Alameda to be 722,300 with an unemployment rate of 3.4 percent. This is significantly lower than the state's unemployment rate of 5.2 percent for the same year.

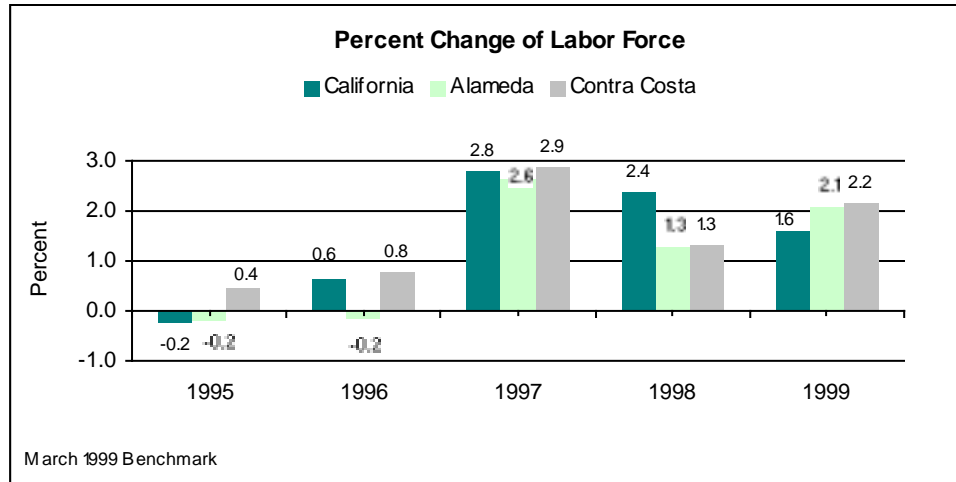
Services is the largest industry in the county, accounting for 28.5 percent of the employment. Another significant industry sector providing employment is trade at 22.6 percent. Growing steadily over the last five years, wholesale trade added the most jobs in 1998.

Traditional industry sectors such as manufacturing, retail trade and services will continue to grow and will provide most of the jobs in Alameda's future economy. Services is projected to add 23,500 jobs by 2002. Within the services industry, the concentration of growth is in business services and is influenced by the high-tech employment spreading from the Silicon Valley into southern Alameda County. Manufacturing is projected to add 13,200 with industrial machinery and electronic equipment dominating the industry in growth. Retail trade is expected to add 10,600 jobs.

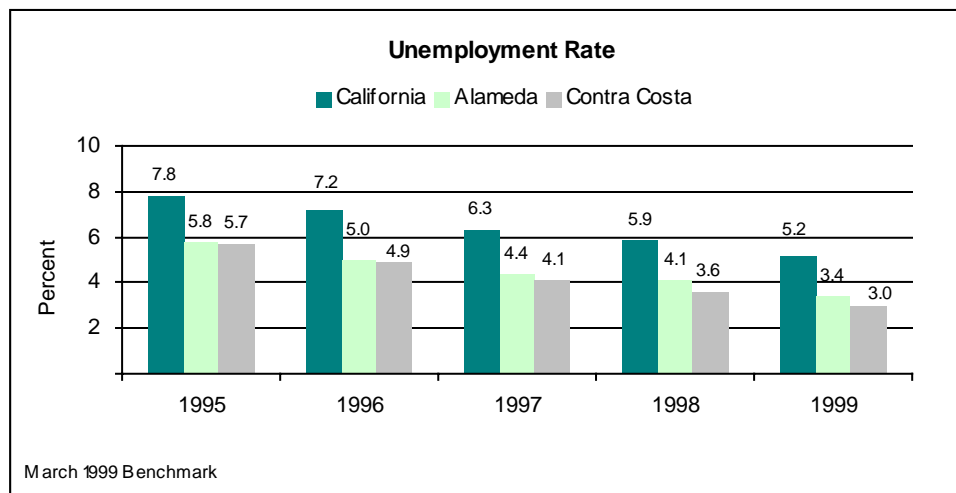
The local labor market conditions in Alameda County have been steadily improving over the last five years. The county continues to record job growth and lower unemployment rates.

LABOR FORCE

Alameda County's civilian labor force rebounded in 1997 with 2.6 percent growth. Over this period, 1995 – 1999, Alameda's labor force increased by 5.9 percent compared to 7.6 percent for the state. Contra Costa County's cumulative growth during this period was 7.3 percent.

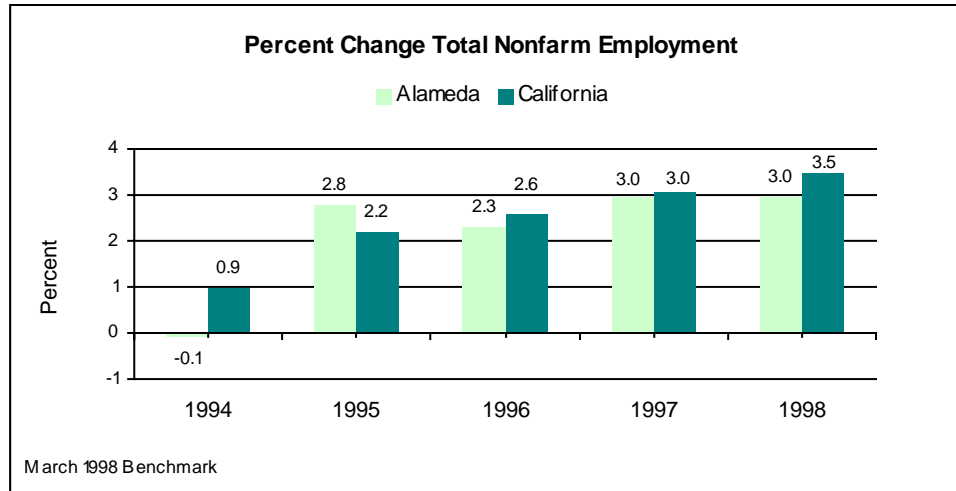


Since 1995, unemployment rates are lower for Alameda and neighboring Contra Costa County than for the state, indicative of the employment opportunities in the area. In Alameda County, the annual average unemployment rate dropped 2.4 percentage points from a high of 5.8 percent in 1995 to 3.4 percent in 1999. Alameda averaged a steady decline of 0.6 percentage points over this period.

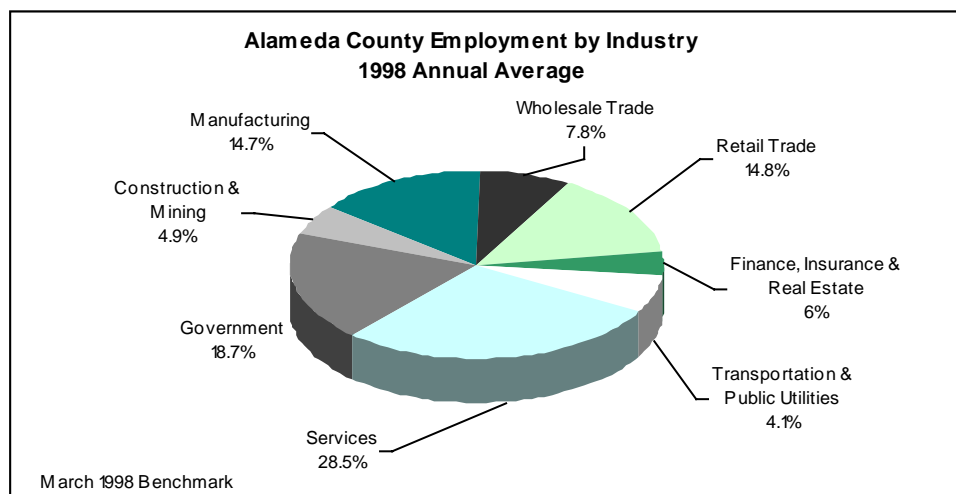


INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

Job growth creates opportunity and is considered to be one measure of economic health. Alameda County's nonfarm wage and salary employment added 67,800 jobs over the period (1994-1998), averaging 16,950 jobs each year. In 1998, services accounted for 34.2 percent of the growth with 6,500 jobs.



In 1998, Alameda employment was dominated by services, retail trade and government sectors. During the forecast period of 1995-2002, it is expected that 75 percent of the job growth in the county will be in manufacturing, retail trade and services.



OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Demographic trends, shifts in demands for products or services, technological innovations and the way business is conducted are some of the variables that drive employment in an occupation up or down. Also, occupations which have large employment and have high turnover rates generally provide the most job openings. Alameda County is projected to have employment opportunities in the larger high turnover occupations and also in the more technologically advanced categories.

Associated Occupations	MANUFACTURING 1995-2002 Projected Growth 16.2%
	Assemblers, Fabricators-Except Machine, Electrical – 1,390 job openings. Assemble and/or fit together parts to form complete units or subassemblies at a bench, conveyor line, or on the floor. Duties are of a non-precision nature. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$9.38
	Electrical, Electronic Assemblers - 720 job openings. Put together the small internal components that control electrical currents and make the products work. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$9.56
	Electrical and Electronic Engineers - 380 job openings. Design, develop, test and supervise the manufacture and installation of electrical and electronic equipment, components or systems, computers and related equipment and systems for commercial, industrial, military or scientific use. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$34.15
	Traffic, Shipping, Receiving Clerks – 320 openings. Verify and keep records on incoming and outgoing shipments and prepare items for shipment. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$12.48
	Machinists – 310 openings. Set up and operate machine tools and fit and assemble parts to make or repair metal parts, mechanisms, tools or machines by applying knowledge of mechanics, shop mathematics, metal properties and layout machining procedures. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$16.90.
Associated Occupations	SERVICES 1995-2002 Projected Growth 13.8%
	Computer Engineers - 870 job openings. Assist in the selection and installation of computer systems by providing technical advice and support. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$33.81
	Janitors, Cleaners-Except Maids - 680 job openings. Keep buildings in clean and orderly condition; perform heavy cleaning duties such as operating motor driven cleaning equipment, mopping floors, washing walls and glass, and removing rubbish. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.59
	Home Health Care Workers - 670 job openings. Care for elderly, convalescent, or handicapped persons in the homes of their patients. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$10.54
	Guards and Watch Guards - 650 job openings. Stand guard at entrance gates or walk about premises of businesses, industrial establishments, or private residences to prevent theft, violence or infractions of rules. Direct patrons or employees, control traffic. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.46
	Secretaries, General – 610 job openings. Schedule appointments, give information to callers, take dictation, compose and type routine correspondence, read and route incoming mail, and file correspondence and other records. Post-secondary vocational education. Median Hourly Wage - \$14.27
Associated Occupations	RETAIL TRADE 1995-2002 Projected Growth 11%
	Salespersons, Retail – 1,850 job openings. Get the customer interested by describing the merchandise and showing how it is used. May also order merchandise, stock shelves, mark price tags, take inventory and prepare displays. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.07.
	Cashiers – 1,730 job openings. Handle cash and credit payments, make change, give receipts, account for all payments, and perform related clerical duties. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.92
	Waiter and Waitresses – 1,180 job openings. Serve food and drink to customers. Duties may include explanation about how the meal is prepared, wine recommendations or simple food preparation at the table. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.04
	Food Preparation Workers - 560 job openings. Keep kitchen work areas clean and orderly, keep restaurant equipment and utensils clean, move supplies and wash dishes, trays, pots and pans used in cooking and serving. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.66
	Cooks – Restaurant – 330 openings. Prepare, season, and cook soups, meats, vegetables, desserts, and other foodstuffs in restaurants. May order supplies, keep records and accounts, price items on a menu, or plan the menu. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.83.

This **County Snapshot** is a product of:

State of California
Employment Development Department
Labor Market Information Division
(916) 262-2162